

# DYNAMITE SLOUGH TRANSMISSION STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT

## Chugach Electric Association

### **Project Evaluation in Accordance with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Costal District Enforceable Policies**

Chugach Electric Association, Inc. (Chugach) has reviewed this project and found it to be consistent with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Costal District Enforceable Policies. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Costal District Enforceable Policies are shown below (*in italics*) and Chugach's explanation of consistency is shown in bold where applicable.

#### **Coastal Development**

##### ***Standard***

(1) *General policies for coastal development include:*

*In planning for and approving development in coastal area, the District shall give, in the following order, priority to:*

- (a) *Water-dependent uses and activities in or adjacent to rivers, lakes, streams and uses and activities along its coastline;*
  - (b) *Water-related uses and activities in or adjacent to rivers, lakes, streams and uses and activities along its coastline; and*
  - (c) *Uses and activities which are neither water-dependent nor water-related for which there is no feasible and prudent inland alternative to meet the public need for the use or activity.*
- (2) *The placement of structures and the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the coastal management area must, at a minimum, comply with the standards contained in Parts 320-330, Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, Vol. 47, No. 141, July 22, 1982, specifically, the standards of Part 320.4, General Policies for Evaluating Permit Applications, will be utilized as applicable to the review of all development proposals.*
- (3) *Dredging and filling shall not be allowed in tide flats and wetlands, submerged lands and water bodies important for migration, spawning or rearing of anadromous or resident fish unless no feasible and prudent alternative exists. The Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing and Migration of Anadromous Fishes, ADF&G will be used to identify and protect important anadromous waters in the District.*
- (4) *Development must be sensitive to the ecosystem in which it is located and incorporate mitigating measures into its design to minimize adverse impacts on that ecosystem.*
- (5) *Development shall be sited, designed, constructed and managed so as to preserve natural and cultural features in the District. Public access to natural and cultural features shall be preserved and maintained, and where appropriate, increased.*
- (6) *The type and concentration of development in an area shall be dictated by the physical limitations and opportunities of the area. Physical conditions such as soil characteristics, slopes, geological features, surface and sub-surface drainage, water tables, floodplains and shore forms shall be taken into consideration when planning development in an area.*
- (7) *The District recognizes existing areas of development and nonconforming uses within the coastal management boundary. Such recognition does not imply the allowance of similar uses and activities in the District in the future.*

*Industrial development includes the commercial production and sale of goods and services. Types of development include the commercial production and sale of goods and services. Types of development considered industrial include, but are not limited to, forestry, mining, fishing, communications, wholesale trade, manufacturing, utilities and transportation.*

*Commercial development includes economic development activity, but at a reduced scale of development compared to industrial development. Types of development considered commercial include, but are not limited to, retail trade businesses, service stations and other private businesses which provide service and employment. Port development*

includes waterfront development activity. Types of development considered port development includes, at a minimum, a site on a waterway which provides harbor or dock facilities.

In addition to the above general policies for all coastal development, policies and enforceable rules for industrial, commercial and port development include:

- (1) Port, dock, commercial and industrial facilities shall be sited, designed, constructed and operated in a manner that minimizes excavation and disturbance to anadromous and resident fish and wildlife, and the alteration of the shoreline, tide flats and wetlands.
- (2) Industrial users of the shoreline shall minimize the negative aesthetic impact of their use and activities, shall enhance and maintain the positive visual aspects of their development and provide recreational opportunities for public viewing of such positive aspects whenever practical and safe. Aesthetic values include scenic corridors, area and vistas, open space, parks and recreation.
- (3) Design criteria and performance standards for industrial, commercial and port development shall be required in order to maintain a high aesthetic appeal and prevent unsightly incompatible development.
- (4) Preference will be given to industrial, commercial or port uses which promote physical and visual access to the shoreline, when such access does not cause interference with operation or hazards to life and property.

In addition to the above general policies for all coastal development, policies and enforceable rules for residential coastal development include:

- (1) Recognizing that premature and scattered development needlessly degrades rivers, lakes and coastline open space, conflicts with other appropriate uses and causes extra public costs for public services, new development shall minimize its impact by consolidating development where possible.
- (2) Community open space areas shall be identified and planned for.
- (3) Subdivisions outside the road-served areas of the Borough, including subdivisions of State land into lots of less than 10.0 acres, shall be designed so as to maintain, to the greatest extent possible, fish and wildlife productivity and existing uses. In addition, the following shall be provided for all such subdivisions:
  - a. Feasible Access. Feasible access includes legal access and physical access, such as airstrip, water, rail or roads. Such feasible access shall be provided to all subdivisions except that subdivisions of State land described above shall be exempted from the requirement of physical access to the extent not funded by the State when the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) finds, with respect to each subdivision, that the Borough has been given an opportunity either to construct access for State subdivisions, with expenses recouped from the proceeds of the State sale, or to acquire, market and develop the proposed subdivision and construct the access with proceeds from the sale. Construction of such access must begin within a reasonable period.
  - b. Reasonable access to energy resources for individual heating purposes including but not limited to firewood. If firewood is the principle energy resource, consideration will be given to the sustained yield carrying capacity of the are for firewood production.
  - c. Reasonable access to suitable supply of water for individual consumption purposes.
  - d. Environmental suitability for sewage and garbage disposal.
  - e. Reasonable use and access to public lands adjoining State land disposals.

## Evaluation

- (1) N/A
- (2) Neither structures or fill will be placed in the waters of the Coastal Management Area.
- (3) Dredging and filling will not occur during this project.
- (4) Construction activities will occur within existing transmission line Right-of-Way.
- (5) N/A
- (6) N/A
- (7) N/A

^ Consistent

Q Inconsistent

Q Not Applicable

## **Energy Facilities**

### ***Standard***

- (1) *Criteria identified in 6 A.A.C. 80.070 shall be used for siting and approving energy facilities in the District including:*
- (a) Site facilities so as to minimize adverse environmental and social effects while satisfying industrial requirements;*
  - (b) Site facilities so as to be compatible with existing and subsequent adjacent uses and projected community needs;*
  - (c) Consolidate facilities;*
  - (d) Consider the concurrent use of facilities for public or economic reasons;*
  - (e) Cooperate with landowners, developers and federal agencies in the development of facilities;*
  - if) Select sites with sufficient acreage to allow for reasonable expansion of facilities;*
  - (g) Site facilities where existing infrastructure, including roads, docks and airstrips is capable of satisfying industrial requirements; (h) Select harbors and shipping routes with least exposure to reefs, shoals, drift ice and other obstructions; (i) Encourage the use of vessels traffic control and collision avoidance systems;*
  - (j) Select sites where development will require minimal site clearing, dredging and construction in productive habitats; (k) Site facilities so as to minimize the probability, along shipping routes, of spills or other forms of contamination which would affect fishing grounds, spawning grounds, and other biologically productive or vulnerable habitats, including marine mammal rookeries and hauling out grounds and waterfowl nesting areas; (l) Site facilities so that design and construction of those facilities and support infrastructures in coastal areas of Alaska will allow for the free passage and movement offish and wildlife with due consideration for historic migratory patterns and so that areas of particular scenic, recreational, environmental or cultural value will be protected; (m) Site facilities in areas of least biological productivity, diversity and vulnerability and where effluents and spills can be controlled or contained; (n) Site facilities where winds and air currents disperse airborne emissions which cannot be captured before escape into the atmosphere; (o) Select sites in areas which are designated for industrial purposes and where industrial traffic is minimized through population centers; and (p) Select sites where vessel movements will not result in overcrowded harbors or interfere with fishing operations and equipment.*
- (2) *Energy facilities shall be sited, designed, developed and operated to minimize impacts on, and ensure continued use of, aquatic and terrestrial fish and wildlife habitats. Energy facilities shall be developed and operated in a manner that will ensure fish passage and minimize alteration offish and wildlife habitat and in stream flows.*
- (3) *Energy facility developers shall provide to the District, in a timely manner, nonproprietary information, reports, transportation and logistics plans and summaries of studies in sufficient detail for its planning purposes.*

### **Evaluation**

- (1)
- (a) N/A
  - (b) N/A
  - (c) N/A
  - (d) N/A
  - (e) Chugach has complied with the permit approval process.
  - (f) N/A
  - (g) N/A
  - (h) N/A
  - (i) N/A

**(j) Construction activities will occur within existing transmission line Right-of-Way.**

**(k) N/A**

**(1) The new transmission structures will allow for free movement of fish and wildlife.**

**(m) N/A**

**(n) N/A**

**(o) N/A**

**(p) N/A**

**(2) The new transmission structures will allow for free movement of fish and wildlife.**

**(3) Information on construction plans is contained in Chugach's permit application package.**

☒ Consistent

☐ Inconsistent

☐ Not Applicable

Fish & Seafood Processing

***Standard***

*(1) The State standard (6 A.A.C. 80.090) is adopted as part of the Mat-Su MSBCMP.*

Evaluation

(1)

☒ Consistent

☐ Inconsistent

☒ Not Applicable

Timber Harvest & Processing

***Standard***

*(1) The State standard (6 A.A. C. 80.100) and superseding provisions of the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (11 A.A.C. 95.050 through 11 A.A.C. 95.180) are adopted as part of the MSBCMP supplemented by the following policies.*

*(2) Timber harvest activities shall be planned and managed so as to:*

*a. Minimize adverse environmental impacts on fish and wildlife habitat;*

*b. Ensure the free passage of anadromous and resident fish in coastal waters, rivers, streams and lakes;*

*c. Minimize conflict with recreational uses and activities;*

*d. Minimize sedimentation, erosion and interference with drainages; and*

*e. Aid in the preparation of land for agricultural uses.*

*(3) Mitigation plans for scenic value protection are required where timber harvest activities are planned and managed so as to mitigate the degradation of view shed.*

*(4) Mitigation plans are required where timber harvest activities are planned and managed so as to protect river banks, stream banks and other shorelines from adverse visual impacts.*

*(5) Access to sufficiently large acres of land for viable, sustained yield and long term timber management practices shall be maintained, or where appropriate, provided for.*

Evaluation

(1)

(2)

(3)

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(5)

☒ Consistent

☐ Inconsistent

☐ Not Applicable



## Mining & Mineral Processing

### **Standard**

- (1) *The State standard (6AAC 80.110) is adopted as part of the MSBCMP. The State policy requires mining and mineral processing to be consistent with all elements of this program, any State and federal regulations and also compatible with adjacent uses and activities.*
- (2) *Sand and gravel may be extracted from coastal waters, riverbeds, floodplains of rivers, and intertidal areas provided there is no significant impact on fish productivity and there is no feasible and prudent alternative to coastal extraction which will meet the public need for sand and gravel.*
- (3) *Gravel extraction sites shall be consolidated where feasible and practical.*
- (4) *Mining and mineral processing activities shall be planned and managed so as to minimize degradation offish and wildlife habitat, air and water quality, and recreational values.*
- (5) *Reclamation plans shall be a requirement of all gravel extraction activities.*
- (6) *All gravel extraction parcels shall be subject to Borough Ordinance 74-52 which states that Borough land in parcels forty (40) acres or larger and which consist of forty (40) percent or more soil Conservation Service capability classes 11 and HI shall be classified agricultural unless the Assembly finds that such land is unsuitable for agricultural purposes.*
- (7) *Access to viable mining and mineral processing activities within the Borough shall be maintained, or where appropriate, provided for.*

Evaluation (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

(6) (7)

[~] Consistent

Q Inconsistent

£3 Not Applicable

## Transportation

### **Standard**

- (1) *The State standard for transportation (6 A.A. C. 80.080) is adopted as a part of the MSBCMP.*
- (2) *Transportation routes shall be sited inland from the shoreline and avoid important fish and wildlife habitat areas unless no feasible or prudent alternative exists to meet the public need for the route.*
- (3) *Highway, road and airport design and construction shall minimize alteration offish and wildlife habitat, water courses, wetlands, aesthetic and recreational resources.*
- (4) *Adequate provisions for maintenance of natural drainage, fish and wildlife habitat requirements and view shed protection shall be given required. View shed includes all those land surfaces that are visible from a given viewpoint.*
- (5) *Design criteria and performance standards for transportation development shall be required in order to maintain a high aesthetic appeal and prevent unsightly incompatible development. Aesthetic values include scenic corridors, area, vistas, open space, parks and recreation.*

Evaluation

(1)

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I Consistent

[ ] Inconsistent

^ Not Applicable

## **Utilities**

### ***Standard***

- (1) *The State standard for utilities (6 A.A.C. 80.080) is adopted as a part of the MSBCMP.*
- (2) *Utility corridor development shall be consolidated. In establishing corridors, adequate space shall be reserved to allow additional use where it is projected. In evaluating options for consolidation of utility corridors, each applicant shall document said options during the planning process. A documented visual impact analysis shall also be required.*
- (3) *Where feasible and prudent, important fish and wildlife habitat, scenic, and recreational values shall be retained when establishing utility corridors. A documented mitigation plan for these resources shall be required.*

### **Evaluation**

- (1) The project meets this requirement.**
- (2) Construction activities will occur within existing transmission line Right-of-Way.**
- (3) Construction activities will occur within existing transmission line Right-of-Way.**

3 Consistent

Q Inconsistent

Q] Not Applicable

## **Agriculture**

### ***Standard***

- (I) *Agriculture shall be practiced in accordance with the sound soil and water conservation principles which minimize adverse impacts to air, land and water quality and maintain or enhance fish and wildlife habitat and recreational values.*

### **Evaluation**

- (1)

 Consistent

Q Inconsistent

^ Not Applicable

## **Recreation**

### ***Standard***

- (1) *The State standard (6 A.A.C. 80.060) is adopted as a part of the MSBCMP. The standard requires districts to designate areas for recreational use. The standard also requires that high priority be given to maintaining and, where appropriate, increasing public access to coastal water.*
- (2) *The following areas are designated as recreational areas:*
  - a. *Susitna Flats State Game Refuge;*
  - b. *Palmer Hay State Game Refuge;*
  - c. *Goose Bay State Game Refuge;*
  - d. *Nancy Lake Recreation Area;*
  - e. *Willow Creek Corridor;*
  - f. *Knik Arm Wetlands Area;*
  - g. *Jim/Swan Lakes Area;*
  - h. *Little Susitna River Corridor;*
  - i. *Iditarod Trail; and*
  - j. *State waysides and campgrounds.*
- (3) *Priority shall be given to maintaining and, where appropriate, increasing public access to coastal waters, wetlands, river, lakes, streams and uplands for fishing, hunting, scenic viewing, and other recreational activities.*
- (4) *Priority shall be given to developing and maintaining multi-use trail systems. Easements, right-of-way, and other means shall be used in acquiring and maintaining trail access during land transfers.*
- (5) *Priority shall be given to the recreational development of areas having potential for high quality recreational use because of physical, biological, cultural or historical features.*

## Evaluation

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)

I Consistent

Q Inconsistent

[\*] Not Applicable

## Subsistence

### *Standard*

(1) *The State standard (6 A.A. C. 80.120) is adopted as a part of the MSBCMP.*

## Evaluation

- (1)

I Consistent

Q Inconsistent

£<] Not Applicable

## Coastal Habitats

### *Standard*

(1) *The State standard (6 A.A. C. 80.130) is adopted as part of the MSBCMP. The following habitats are subject to coastal management standards:*

- a. *Offshore areas and estuaries;*
- b. *Wetlands and tide flats;*
- c. *Vegetated bluffs;*
- d. *Rivers, streams and lakes including all major anadromous drainages and their primary tributaries identified in Chapter 3 up to the 1000-foot elevation contour. The width of this extended coastal area is the width of the water course and 200 feet on each side measured from the ordinary high water line; and*
- e. *Important upland habitat.*

(2) *Proposed uses and activities within 75 feet of the ordinary high water (OHW) line of rivers, streams and lakes that require local, State or federal authorization must be reviewed to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Water-dependent structures such as docks, piers, marinas, floatplane hangars, or boathouses, and access to such structures are allowable within 75 feet of OHW provided they are constructed and used in a way that minimizes adverse impacts to water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Other uses and activities within 75 feet of OHW are also allowable if the proposed development will have not significant adverse impact to water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, and complies with other applicable federal, State and local requirements.*

(3) *The standards for coastal resources and habitats are those included in Appendix A, pgs. A-5 and A-6. Coastal habitats shall be managed to maintain and enhance the physical, biological and chemical characteristics which contribute to the maintenance of their integrity.*

(4) *Upland habitats shall be managed*

- a. *To protect important fish and wildlife production and harvest area, surface water quality, and natural groundwater recharge area;*
- b. *To maintain habitat productivity and diversity, natural drainage patterns, and vegetative cover on steep slopes and along stream banks and shorelines;*
- c. *To prevent excessive runoff and erosion; and*
- d. *To provide for open space, scenic and recreational values.*

(5) *Activities in wetlands shall be conducted in a manner that will maintain natural drainage patterns and wetlands productivity.*

(6) *Mitigation techniques for activities along and in rivers, lands and streams shall include replacing stream bank vegetation where possible; creation of oil and grease separators prior to road development runoff entering rivers, lakes and streams; creation of settlement systems prior to development runoff entering stream corridors thereby decreasing sedimentation; and mitigation of any changes in stream flow regimes.*



#### Evaluation

- (1) This project meets the coastal management standards.
- (2) Construction activities will occur within existing transmission line Right-of-Way and will not affect water quality, fish habitat, or wildlife habitat.
- (3) Construction activities will not affect the physical, biological, or chemical characteristics of the site.
- (4) Construction activities will occur within existing transmission line Right-of-Way in order to meet these requirements.
- (5) Drainage in wetland areas will not be altered.
- (6) N/A

3 Consistent

\} Inconsistent

Q Not Applicable

#### **Air, Land, and Water Quality**

##### ***Standard***

- (1) *Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the statutes pertaining to and the regulations and procedures of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation with respect to the protection of air, land and water quality are incorporated in the ACMP and as administered by that agency, constitute the components of the MSBCMP with respect to those purposes.*
- (2) *Land clearing, grading, filling and alteration of natural drainage features shall be minimized. Areas cleared of vegetation and not developed shall be revegetated with native plants to deter erosion and restore pre-alteration habitat productivity within one year form time vegetation was removed.*

#### Evaluation

- (1) This project is in compliance with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation regulations for the protection of air, land, and water.
- (2) No clearing or grading will occur during this project.

3 Consistent

□ Inconsistent

\^ Not Applicable

#### **Historic, Prehistoric and Archaeological Resources**

##### ***Standard***

- (1) *The State standard (6 A.A. C. 80.150) is adopted as a part of the MSBCMP.*
- (2) *All development shall meet historic preservation objectives of the District as outlined by the Historic Preservation Survey (1981) in Appendix C2, including revitalization and utilization of historic resources.*

#### Evaluation

- (1)
- (2)

|\_1 Consistent

|Z\ Inconsistent

|^ Not Applicable

#### **Hazardous Area**

##### ***Standard***

- (1) *The State standard (6 A.A. C. 80.050) is adopted as a part of the MSBCMP.*
- (2) *Known geophysical hazard areas and areas of high development potential in which there is a substantial possibility that geophysical hazards may occur are:*
  - a. *Kink/Matanuska River Flood plains;*
  - b. *Susitna and Little Susitna River Floodplains; and*
  - c. *Point Mackenzie vegetated bluffs and coastline.*

- (3) *Development in areas identified above shall not be approved by the appropriate State authority or District until siting, design and construction measures for minimizing property damage and protecting against loss of life have been provided.*
- (4) *Development shall typically be precluded in rapidly eroding, slide prone, or geologically unstable shorelines. Any development proposed for these areas shall be based upon a geotechnical investigation attesting to the safety of the area and specific engineering practices or structures that would alleviate or mitigate the hazard.*
- (5) *Surface modification that would induce excessive erosion, undermine the support of nearby land or unnecessarily scar the landscape shall be limited.*

## **Evaluation**

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)

I I Consistent

(~| Inconsistent

K! Not Applicable



# **DYNAMITE SLOUGH TRANSMISSION STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT**

## **Chugach Electric Association**

### **Project Evaluation in Accordance with the Alaska Administrative Code Chapter 11 AAC 112 Statewide Standards for Coastal Development**

Chugach Electric Association, Inc. (Chugach) has reviewed this project and found it to be consistent with the Alaska Administrative Code Chapter 11 AAC 112 Statewide Standards for Coastal Development. Each section of the Alaska Administrative Code Chapter 11 AAC 112 Statewide Standards for Coastal Development is addressed below along with Chugach's explanation of consistency where applicable.

#### **11 AAC 112.010 Applicability**

These standards are applicable to this project.

#### **11 AAC 112.020 Coverage of Chapter This**

project is covered under this chapter. **11 AAC**

#### **112.200 Coastal Development**

(a) N/A

(b) N/A

(c) Neither structures or fill will be placed into coastal waters.

#### **11 AAC 112.210 Natural Hazard Areas**

(a) N/A

(b) N/A

(c) N/A

(d) N/A

#### **11 AAC 112.220 Coastal Access**

N/A

#### **11 AAC 112.230 Energy Facilities**

(a) N/A

(b) N/A



#### **11 AAC 112.240 Utility Routes and Facilities**

- (a) The construction activities will occur inland of beaches and shorelines and within Chugach's existing Right-of-Way.
- (b) The construction activities will occur within Chugach's existing Right-of-Way.

#### **11 AAC 112.250 Timber Harvest and Processing**

N/A

#### **11 AAC 112.260 Sand and Gravel Extraction**

N/A

#### **11 AAC 112.270 Subsistence**

N/A

#### **11 AAC 112.280 Transportation Routes and Facilities**

N/A

#### **11 AAC 112.300 Habitats**

- (a) The project plan protects the sensitive habitats included in the coastal area.
- (b) This project meets the coastal management standards.
- (c) The project plan protects the sensitive habitats included in the coastal area.

#### **11 AAC 112.310 Air, Land, and Water Quality**

This project meets the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) standards for air, land and water quality.

#### **11 AAC 112.320 Historic, Prehistoric, and Archeological Resources**

N/A

#### **11 AAC 112.900 Sequencing Process to Avoid, Minimize, or Mitigate**

This project will minimize the adverse impacts to the coastal area to the maximum extent practicable through the use of adequate ground frost and ice/snow cover.

